

SYRIA - IRAQ

RR0317

U I NCB047 01 NAT 888

SYRIA-IRAQ

SUMMIT OF IRAQI AND SYRIAN PRESIDENTS REPORTED IMMINENT KUWAIT (AP) - A SUMMIT CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE IRAQI AND SYRIAN PRESIDENTS IS "IMMINENT" AS A RESULT OF MEDIATION EFFORTS BY JORDAN'S KING HUSSEIN, THE NEWSPAPER AL-ANBAR REPORTED THURSDAY.

QUOTING WELL-INFORMED JORDANIAN SOURCES, THE KUWAITI NEWSPAPER SAID HUSSEIN'S RECENT WHIRLWIND VISITS TO DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD HAVE "SUCCEEDED IN NARROWING THE GAP BETWEEN THE ATTITUDES OF IRAQI PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN AND SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD."

THE TWO PRESIDENTS WOULD BE MEETING IN THE JORDANIAN CAPITAL, IT SAID. AN EARLIER RECONCILIATION MEETING IN THE JORDANIAN DESERT IS REPORTED TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN APRIL, BUT THIS HAS NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED IN ANY OF THE INVOLVED ARAB CAPITALS.

THE TWO PRESIDENTS REPRESENT RIVAL FACTIONS OF THE BATH ARAB SOCIALIST PARTY, AND THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE FALLEN OUT SINCE 1979 WITH CHARGES OF SUBVERSIVE ATTEMPTS AGAINST EACH OTHER. WHEN THE WAR BROKE OUT BETWEEN IRAQ AND IRAN IN SEPTEMBER 1980, SYRIA SIDED WITH THE PERSIAN STATE.

ACCORDING TO AL-ANBAR, THE JORDANIAN MONARCH HAS PERSUADED THE TWO PRESIDENTS TO CONCENTRATE ON THE ISSUES ON WHICH THEY AGREE AND TO DEFER CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES TO A LATER STAGE.

THE PAPER DID NOT ELABORATE ON THE ISSUES AT STAKE.

BUT IT QUOTED ITS SOURCES AS SAYING IRAQ INSISTED THAT SYRIA ADOPT A NEW LINE TOWARD THE IRAQ-IRAN WAR, NOW IN ITS SEVENTH YEAR, WHILE DAMASCUS WANTED A "PUBLIC DECLARATION BY IRAQ THAT SYRIA DID NOT INTERFERE IN IRAQ'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS."

MORE

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KUWAIT - SYRIA-IRAQ 2

KING HUSSEIN AND OTHER ARAB LEADERS, PARTICULARLY IN SAUDI ARABIA, HAVE BEEN EXERTING EFFORTS ALONG THE YEARS TO HEAL THE RIFT BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD IN THE INTEREST OF PAN-ARAB UNITY AS WELL AS HELPING END THE IRAQ-IRAN WAR.

A RECENT REPORT IN THE SHARJAH-BASED AL-KHALEEJ NEWSPAPER ON MEDIATION EFFORT BY KING HUSSEIN SAID ASSAD SOUGHT INSTANT MERGER BETWEEN SYRIA AND IRAQ, CONTENDING THIS WOULD BE THE ROAD TO ENDING THE GULF WAR.

AL-KHALEEJ QUOTED UNIDENTIFIED SOURCES IN DAMASCUS AS SAYING THAT ASSAD BELIEVED THAT TEHRAN'S DEMAND THAT THE IRAQI PRESIDENT BE TOPPLED BEFORE THE WAR CAN END, WOULD BE IN EFFECT RENDERED MOOT ONCE THE MERGER TOOK PLACE.

END

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SYRIA-IRAN

IRANIAN SCOFFS AT CLAIMS OF IRAQI-SYRIAN RAPPROCHMENT
DAMASCUS. SYRIA (AP) - A TOP ENVOY FROM IRAN ON THURSDAY
DISMISSED AS 'LIES' REPORTS THAT ITS ENEMY IRAQ IS RECONCILING
WITH SYRIA, AN ALLY OF THE PERSIAN NATION.

MOHSEN RAFIQ-DOUST, THE REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS MINISTER, ALSO
PRAISED SYRIA FOR ITS SUPPORT OF IRAN AND SAID RELATIONS WITH
DAMASCUS WERE 'GOOD,' DESPITE RECENT REPORTS OF A CHILL.

RAFIQ-DOUST ALSO TOLD REPORTERS:

'ALL REPORTS ABOUT A SYRIAN-IRAQI RAPPROCHMENT ARE FALSE
RUMORS AND LIES. THE SYRIANS ARE CLEVER AND THEY WILL NEVER REPLACE
THEIR DISTINGUISHED RELATIONS WITH STRONG IRAN, BY RELATIONS WITH A
COLLAPSING REGIME.'

HE DID NOT SAY WHAT BASIS HE HAD FOR MAKING THE STATEMENT ABOUT
SYRIAN-IRAQI RELATIONS, ALTHOUGH HE HAS BEEN HOLDING TALKS WITH
SYRIAN OFFICIALS FOR TWO DAYS.

INFORMED OFFICIAL ARAB SOURCES TOLD THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
EARLIER THIS WEEK THAT THE TWO FEUDING ARAB NATIONS WERE QUIETLY
MOVING TO END A THEIR RIFT.

THE SOURCES, SPEAKING ON CONDITION THEY NOT BE IDENTIFIED, SAID
SYRIAN AND IRAQI LEADERS MET SEVERAL TIMES AT UNDISCLOSED
LOCATIONS, FOLLOWING A MEETING BETWEEN SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD
AND IRAQI PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN AT A DESERT AIRSTRIP IN JORDAN
ON JAN. 26.

THE TWO ARAB NATIONS ARE RULED BY RIVAL WINGS OF THE ARAB BATH
SOCIALIST PARTY.

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DANASCUS - SYRIA-IRAN 2

TURNING TO THE GULF, RAFIQ-DOUST ENUNCIATED THE IRANIAN POSITION THAT "AS LONG AS OUR SHIPS ARE NOT ATTACKED, THE SITUATION WILL REMAIN CALM ... BUT IF ANY OF OUR SHIPS IS HIT, THERE WILL BE NO SECURITY FOR ANYBODY. AND WE SHALL HIT ANY SHIP WHATEVER FLAG IT RAISES."

HE WAS APPARENTLY REFERRING TO KUWAITI TANKERS, 11 OF WHICH ARE BEING REGISTERED TO FLY THE AMERICAN FLAG, QUALIFYING THEM FOR PROTECTION FROM U.S. WARSHIPS.

RAFIQ-DOUST ALSO REITERATED HIS NATION'S DENIAL THAT MISSING ANGLICAN CHURCH HOSTAGE NEGOTIATOR TERRY WHITE HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO TEHRAN FROM LEBANON, CALLING SUCH REPORTS "PURE LIES."

"IRAN DOES NOT ALLOW ITSELF TO GET INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE OF THE HOSTAGES," HE SAID, ADDING: "ANY AUTHORITY IN IRAN WOULD NOT ALLOW THAT ANY HOSTAGE BE MOVED TO IRANIAN TERRITORY."

WHITE DISAPPEARED JAN. 20 IN MOSLEM WEST BEIRUT AFTER LEAVING HIS HOTEL TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE HOLDERS OF WESTERN HOSTAGES.

THE REPORT HE HAD BEEN TAKEN TO LEBANON WAS PUBLISHED BY ASH-SHIRAA, A BEIRUT WEEKLY MAGAZINE THAT ALSO BROKE THE STORY OF SECRET AMERICAN ARMS SALES TO IRAN.

END

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R I W0067 *sup 233*ASSAD-HUSSEIN, 0338 *RA2*

ASSAD, IN U.S. NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW, SAID HE MET IN APRIL WITH HUSSEIN

WASHINGTON (AP) - SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD MET SECRETLY IN APRIL WITH HIS ENEMY, IRAQI PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN, ASSAD TOLD THE WASHINGTON POST IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED SUNDAY.

DESPITE THE MEETING, HOWEVER, NO PROGRESS WAS MADE IN ENDING THE DECADE-OLD CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH HAS MADE SYRIA THE ONLY IMPORTANT ARAB COUNTRY TO SUPPORT NON-ARAB IRAN IN THE GULF WAR, ASSAD SAID.

"WE HAVE MET MORE THAN ONCE," HE SAID IN THE INTERVIEW, "BUT OUR POINTS OF VIEW ARE NOT THE SAME ON MANY SUBJECTS, AND SO WE REMAINED WHERE WE WERE.

"I DIDN'T SAY IT PRODUCED MUCH OR LITTLE. I ONLY SAID THAT EACH HAD HIS OWN VIEW ON ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL MATTERS."

ASSAD, 56, MET SATURDAY WITH KATHARINE GRAHAM, CHAIRWOMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE WASHINGTON POST CO., AND REPORTERS FOR THE POST AND NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE, WHICH IS OWNED BY THE WASHINGTON POST CO.

ASSAD, SPEAKING THROUGH HIS INTERPRETER, ALSO CONFIRMED THAT SYRIA HAD CLOSED THE DAMASCUS OFFICE OF ABU NIDAL'S PALESTINIAN GUERRILLA GROUP BUT DENIED THAT PRESSURE FROM THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE INFLUENCED THE ACTION.

"IT IS WRONG TO PORTRAY THE ACTION TAKEN WITH REGARD TO THE PRESENCE OF THE ABU NIDAL GROUP AS IF IT WERE TAKEN UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF A FOREIGN POWER, BECAUSE THE ACTIONS TAKEN WERE FOR REASONS BELONGING TO US IN SYRIA," HE SAID.

ASSAD SAID HIS COUNTRY WOULD ALSO TRY TO HELP FREE MORE FOREIGN HOSTAGES HELD IN LEBANON. SYRIA WAS CREDITED WITH HELPING WIN THE RECENT RELEASE OF U.S. JOURNALIST CHARLES GLASS.

"AS IN THE PAST, WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO HELP THESE HOSTAGES, AND WE UNDERSTAND THEIR SUFFERING," HE SAID.

ASSAD SAID HE WELCOMED RECENT DECISIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION OF U.S. PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN TO LIFT SANCTIONS AGAINST SYRIA THAT WERE IMPOSED BECAUSE OF ITS SUPPORT OF TERRORISM.

END

✓ Syria - Saudi
✓ Syria - Iraq

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LEAD SYRIA-SAUDI

PRECEDE DAMASCUS

EDS: UPDATES WITH SAUDI CROWN PRINCE ARRIVING IN CAIRO

CAIRO, EGYPT (AP) - CROWN PRINCE ABDULLAH OF SAUDI ARABIA FLEW IN MONDAY FROM DAMASCUS ON THE THIRD LEG OF A TOUR AIMED AT SPEEDING UP A RECONCILIATION BETWEEN SYRIA AND IRAQ.

PRIME MINISTER ATEF SEDKI GREETED ABDULLAH AT CAIRO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. THE PRINCE WAS TO MEET PRESIDENT HOSNI MUBARRAK MONDAY NIGHT.

ABDULLAH VISITED THE IRAQI CAPITAL BAGHDAD BEFORE TRAVELING TO DAMASCUS. HE WILL GO FROM CAIRO TO AMMAN, JORDAN, ON THE FINAL LEG OF HIS TOUR.

DAMASCUS RADIO SAID SUNDAY ABDULLAH'S TALKS IN SYRIA DEALT WITH INTER-ARAB RELATIONS AND THE SEVEN-YEAR-OLD IRAN-IRAQ WAR.

ARAB DIPLOMATS, 5TH GRAF NCB038

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SYRIA-SAUDI

SAUDI PRINCE LEAVES AFTER MEDIATION EFFORT

DAMASCUS, SYRIA (AP) - CROWN PRINCE ABDULLAH OF SAUDI ARABIA ENDED A TWO-DAY VISIT MONDAY, APPARENTLY AIMED AT SPEEDING UP A RECONCILIATION BETWEEN SYRIA AND IRAQ.

THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE OUTCOME OF HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD AND VICE PRESIDENT ABDUL-HALIM KHADDAM.

DAMASCUS RADIO SAID SUNDAY THE TALKS DEALT WITH INTER-ARAB RELATIONS AND THE 7-YEAR-OLD IRAN-IRAQ WAR.

THE SAUDI PRINCE, WHO VISITED BAGHDAD, IRAQ'S CAPITAL, BEFORE FLYING TO DAMASCUS, IS ALSO SCHEDULED TO VISIT JORDAN AND EGYPT BEFORE RETURNING TO RIYADH.

ARAB DIPLOMATS IN BAGHDAD SAID ABDULLAH'S TRIP THERE WAS AIMED AT BOOSTING EFFORTS TO END THE RIFT BETWEEN SYRIA AND IRAQ, WHICH ARE RULED BY RIVAL WINGS OF THE ARAB SOCIALIST BATH PARTY.

EARLIER IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE NEIGHBORING STATES DEEPENED WHEN SYRIA SIDED WITH NON-ARAB IRAN IN THE GULF WAR.

AFTER MEETING PRINCE ABDULLAH SUNDAY, KHADDAM MADE AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO THE RECONCILIATION EFFORT WHEN HE TOLD REPORTERS HE HOPED TO ACHIEVE WHAT WE ALL WISH FOR.

WE SHOULD ALL WORK TOWARD A BETTER ATMOSPHERE IN THE ARAB WORLD, WHICH WILL ENABLE US TO CONFRONT ALL THE DANGERS THAT THREATEN THE ARAB WORLD, AND ESPECIALLY THOSE CREATED BY ISRAEL, HE ADDED.

BUT SYRIA'S STATE-CONTROLLED MEDIA QUOTED HIM AS SAYING THAT NO RECONCILIATION WAS POSSIBLE BETWEEN SYRIA AND EGYPT UNTIL CAIRO ABROGATED ITS 1979 PEACE TREATY WITH ISRAEL.

JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA HAVE BEEN TRYING TO END INTER-ARAB FEUDS. JORDAN'S KING HUSSEIN ARRANGED A SECRET MEETING BETWEEN ASSAD AND IRAQI PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN IN APRIL, BUT BOTH LEADERS LATER REPORTED THIS HAD PRODUCED NO AGREEMENT.

END

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IRAQ-SYRIA INSERT

BAGHDAD - IRAQ-SYRIA, TO ADD COLOR, INSERT AFTER 2ND GRAF:

HUSSEIN WAS XXX NEW AGENCY.

THE MONARCH WAS ACCORDED A RED CARPET WELCOME AT THE AIRPORT. THE STATE TELEVISION SCREENED FOOTAGE SHOWING THE KING AND THE PRESIDENT IN MILITARY FATIGUES, BERETS ON THEIR HEADS AND PISTOLS ON THEIR HIPPS.

THE JORDANIAN 3RD GRAF

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BAGHDAD - IRAQ-SYRIA 2

HOURS BEFORE HUSSEIN'S ARRIVAL, THE IRAQI INFORMATION MINISTER CRITICIZED THE DAMASCUS REGIME OF PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD AND THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT OF COL. MOHAMMAR GADHAFI OF "SABOTAGING" ARAB SOLIDARITY.

LATIF NSAYYEF JASSIM ALSO SAID THAT SYRIA WAS SUBMITTING TO PRESSURE FROM IRAN TO REFUSE TO NEGOTIATE WITH IRAQ.

HE ONLY REFERRED TO THE JORDANIAN MONARCH'S VISIT AS ONE THAT "COMES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES."

"THE SYRIAN REGIME IS INVOLVED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR... BY PROVIDING (IRANIAN LEADER AYATOLLAH RUHOLLAH) KHOMEINI WITH ADVICE AND ARMS," JASSIM TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE AT THE MINISTRY SATURDAY.

IRAQI ARMY OFFICERS HAVE REPEATEDLY SHOWED REPORTERS VISITING THE WARFRONT AMMUNITION SEIZED FROM IRANIAN TROOPS AND BEARING SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC MARKINGS. THE OFFICERS HAVE SAID THAT NO EVIDENCE OF SYRIAN WEAPONRY WAS FOUND.

"WHEN A (SYRIAN-IRAQI) MEETING TAKES PLACE...THE ISSUE (OF SYRIA'S SUPPORT TO IRAN) SHOULD BE THE FOCUS. OTHERWISE, THE PROBLEM WILL NEVER BE STRAIGHTENED," SAID JASSIM, WHO ALSO IS MEMBER OF THE REGIONAL COMMAND OF THE BATH PARTY.

THE SYRIAN REGIME "GOT PAID IN OIL" FOR THE FAILURE OF THE JUNE 13 FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING, HE SAID.

IRAN HAS STOPPED SUPPLYING SYRIA WITH OIL EARLIER THIS YEAR, BUT RESUMED LAST JUNE, ACCORDING TO ANNOUNCEMENTS IN TEHRAN. A SYRIAN

TRADE DELEGATION VISITED TEHRAN JULY 11 AND SIGNED TWO TRADE AGREEMENTS.

MORE (SG-AM)

BAGHDAD - IRAQ-SYRIA 3

LIBYA, IN ADDITION TO SYRIA, ALSO SUPPORTS PERSIAN IRAN IN THE WAR AGAINST ARAB IRAQ.

'SYRIA AND LIBYA ARE THE TWO REGIMES THAT MOSTLY WANT A CONTINUATION OF THE (GULF) WAR,' JASSIN SAID.

THE JORDANIAN MONARCH LAST WEEK VISITED TAIF AND MET WITH SAUDI ARABIA'S KING FAHD. THE SAUDIS, AND MAINLY CROWN PRINCE ABDULLAH, HAVE LED AN EFFORT TO RECONCILE SYRIA AND IRAQ.

ABDULLAH IS HEAD OF AN ARAB LEAGUE COMMITTEE ENTRUSTED WITH RESOLVING INTRA-ARAB DIFFERENCES.

ABDULLAH ARRANGED A FRUITLESS MEETING BETWEEN SYRIAN AND IRAQI SECURITY OFFICIALS ON THE JOINT BORDER LAST OCTOBER.

THE BORDER BETWEEN SYRIA AND IRAQ HAS BEEN CLOSED SINCE 1982, AS IS A TRANS-SYRIA IRAQI OIL PIPELINE TO THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST.

IRAQ AND SYRIA HAVE FUELED SINCE 1968 OVER THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE WATERS OF THE EUPHRATES RIVER, WHICH FLOWS THROUGH TURKEY, SYRIA, IRAQ AND INTO THE GULF.

REFERRING TO SYRIA'S ROLE IN LEBANON'S CIVIL WAR, JASSIN SAID SYRIA RECEIVES AID FROM ARAB COUNTRIES 'TO MASSACRE THE LEBANESE, TO PARTITION LEBANON...AND TO DISRUPT ARAB SOLIDARITY.'

SYRIA HAS SOME 25,000 TROOPS IN LEBANON. THEY ENTERED LEBANON IN 1976 UNDER AN ARAB LEAGUE MANDATE TO POLICE A CIVIL WAR TRUCE.

END (SG-AN)

IRAQ-ARABS

MINISTER CLAIMS SYRIA FOMENTING ARAB DISUNITY

KUWAIT (AP) - IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER TARIQ AZIZ ON SATURDAY BLAMED SYRIA FOR CONDITIONS OF FRAGMENTATION AND DISCORD IN THE ARAB WORLD, DEMANDING AN ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE TO DEVISE NEW BASES FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION.

AZIZ TOLD THE RIGHT-WING NEWSPAPER AL-SEYASSAH IN AN INTERVIEW THAT THE PROPOSED SUMMIT WOULD BE CONVENED BY A MAJORITY OF ARAB POWERS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE "RECALCITRANT MINORITY."

THE ARABS, HE INSISTED, WILL "HAVE TO DEVELOP NEW MECHANICS OF COLLECTIVE ACTION, BASED PRIMARILY ON CONVENING ANNUAL SUMMITS BY WHICHEVER POWERS THAT MIGHT BE WILLING TO ATTEND, AND WITH A VIEW TO TRANSCENDING THE NEGATIVE FACETS OF THE SYRIAN POSITION."

SYRIA AND IRAQ ARE RULED BY RIVAL WINGS OF THE ARAB BAAATH SOCIALIST PARTY.

AZIZ SAID IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO DELAY CONVENING THE REGULAR PAN-ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE ON ACCOUNT OF THE RECENT FAILURE OF SYRIA AND IRAQ TO ARRANGE THEIR RAPPROCHENENT TALKS.

"THE SYRIAN ROLE IN ARAB POLITICS IS BEING BLOATED, AND THIS IS A STRATEGIC ERROR THAT ENCOURAGES THE DAMASCUS REGIME TO BECOME MORE GREEDY AND SEEK TO GAIN MORE BY EXTORTION," HE SAID. "THOSE WHO EXAGGERATE THE SYRIAN ROLE ARE OPERATING UNDER A DELUSION. IF THE (DAMASCUS) REGIME IS UNABLE TO SOLVE ITS OWN PROBLEMS, THEN HOW CAN IT BE EXPECTED TO PLAY ANY ROLE IN SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF OTHERS?"

MORE (JN-AM-KM)

KUWAIT - IRAQ-ARABS 2

AZIZ WAS REFERRING TO A NUMBER OF ARAB POWERS, MAINLY THE OIL-RICH COUNTRIES OF THE GULF REGION, THAT IN RECENT MONTHS CALLED FOR POSTPONING THE PROPOSED SUMMIT UNTIL THE IRAQ-SYRIA DISCORD IS SMOOTHED OVER.

ARAB DIPLOMATIC SOURCES VIEWED AZIZ'S STATEMENT AS THE STRONGEST ATTACK ON SYRIA SINCE KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN'S RECENT BID TO ARRANGE RECONCILIATION TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO NEIGHBORING ARAB POWERS.

SYRIA HAS BEEN BACKING IRAN IN ITS FIVE-YEAR-OLD WAR WITH IRAQ.

RESPONDING TO A QUESTION, AZIZ SAID THAT 'ON ACCOUNT TO PRESSURES FROM IRAN, SYRIA BACKED DOWN FROM THE (RECONCILIATION) MEETING' THAT WAS TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE EARLIER THIS MONTH UNDER JORDANIAN SPONSORSHIP.

THE SYRIA-IRAN ALLIANCE, AZIZ CONTENDED, 'IS ABNORMAL AND BASED ON A CONSPIRACY... (SYRIAN PRESIDENT) HAFEZ ASSAD OPERATES UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT HE CAN ECONOMICALLY BLACKMAIL THE (ARAB) COUNTRIES OF THE GULF.'

THE GULF POWERS, MAINLY SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT, SUPPORT IRAQ IN ITS QUEST FOR TERMINATING IT'S BLOODY CONFLICT WITH IRAN.

AZIZ CLAIMED THAT 'HATRED TO IRAQ AND A DESIRE TO EXTORT THE GULF ARAB POWERS IS ONLY BOND BETWEEN (SYRIA'S) SECULAR REGIME AND THE AUTOCRATIC (IRANIAN) GOVERNMENT.'

'THE DISPARITY BETWEEN THE TWO REGIMES IS BECOMING EVIDENT IN LEBANON, WHERE IRAN HAS BEEN TRYING TO INSTITUTE AN IRANIAN-STYLE (ISLAMIC) REPUBLIC,' SAID AZIZ. 'THIS HAS DYNAMITED ASSAD'S STRATEGY IN LEBANON, WHERE THE SYRIAN NATIONALIST PARTY (MILITIAMEN) HAVE BEEN FIGHTING AGAINST THE (IRANIAN-BACKED) HEZBOLLAH (GUNMEN).'

MORE (JA-AM-KM)

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KUWAIT - IRAQ-ARABS 3

AZIZ NOTED THAT IRAN'S INVASION AND SEIZURE OF TRACTS OF THE SOUTHERN IRAQI FAW PENINSULA LAST FEBRUARY PUSHED THE GULF WAR CLOSER TO THE DOORSTEPS OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES, MAINLY KUWAIT AND SAUDI ARABIA.

'SYRIA HAD TRIED TO CONVINCE THE (ARAB) COUNTRIES OF THE GULF THAT IT IS CAPABLE OF PROTECTING THEM AGAINST IRAN'S EXPANSIONISM,' AZIZ TOLD AL-SEYHSSAH. 'NOW THAT THE IRANIS AT FAW ARE SO CLOSE TO THE GULF (COUNTRIES) WE ASK: WHERE ARE THE SYRIAN PROTECTORS?'

END (JM-KM-AM)

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SYRIA-IRAQ

DAMASCUS PROPOSED MERGER WITH IRAQ, BAGHDAD MINISTER SAYS
MANAMA, BAHRAIN (AP) - SYRIA HAS PROPOSED "A DIRECT MERGER"
WITH IRAQ TO HELP OVERCOME THEIR LONGSTANDING RIFT, THE IRAQI
DEFENSE MINISTER WAS QUOTED SUNDAY AS SAYING.

STAFF GENERAL ADNAN KHAIRALLAH IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PARIS-
BASED ARABIC-LANGUAGE KOL AL-ARAB WEEKLY MAGAZINE SAID IRAQ
PREFERRED THAT "A BROTHERLY RELATIONSHIP BE ESTABLISHED FIRST"
BETWEEN THE TWO ARAB POWERS.

EXCERPTS FROM THE INTERVIEW WERE DISTRIBUTED HERE BY THE GULF
NEWS AGENCY.

IRAQ AND SYRIA ARE RULED BY RIVAL WINGS OF THE ARAB BAAATH
SOCIALIST PARTY. THEIR RIVALRY WAS AGGRAVATED WHEN THE IRAQ-IRAN
WAR BROKE OUT IN SEPTEMBER 1980, WHEN SYRIA SIDED WITH PERSIAN
POWER AGAINST ITS ARAB NEIGHBOR.

SAUDI ARABIA HAS BEEN SPEARHEADING MEDIATION EFFORTS WITHIN
THE FRAMEWORKS OF THE ARAB LEAGUE TO HEAL RIFTS SPLITTING ARAB
RANKS AND PAVE THE WAY FOR HOSTING A REGULAR PAN-ARAB SUMMIT
CONFERENCE, WHICH HAS BEEN DELAYED FOR THREE YEARS.

THE SAUDIS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO MEND FENCES BETWEEN SYRIA AND IRAQ
WITH A VIEW TO ARRANGING AN END TO THE 5-YEAR-OLD IRAQ-IRAN WAR.

SAUDI CROWN PRINCE ABDULLAH, HEADING A COMMITTEE TO "CLEAR
THE ARAB POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE," SUCCEEDED LAST MONTH IN ARRANGING
AN END TO A 6-YEAR STRAIN BETWEEN SYRIA AND JORDAN.

ABDULLAH ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT SYRIAN AND IRAQI SECURITY OFFICERS
MET RECENTLY TO DISCUSS A RAPPROCHMENT BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD.

GEN. KHAIRALLAH CONFIRMED THE MEETING AND SAID IRAQ SUPPORTED
ANY EFFORTS AIMED AT BRIDGING THE POLITICAL GAP BETWEEN SYRIA AND
IRAQ.

MORE

NN-AM

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MANAMA - SYRIA-IRAQ 2

JORDANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TAHER AL-MASRI WAS MEANWHILE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT KING HUSSEIN WAS TO HOLD A MINI-SUMMIT WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD "BEFORE THE END OF NEXT MONTH."

AL-MASRI TOLD THE KUWAITI NEWSPAPER AL-RAI AL-AM IN AN INTERVIEW THAT THE EXISTING STRONG RELATIONS BETWEEN JORDAN AND IRAQ WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY HIS COUNTRY'S RAPPROCHMENT WITH SYRIA.

"WE HAVE STRONG TIES WITH IRAQ WHICH CANNOT BE SHAKEN, AND WE WOULD NOT ALLOW OUR RELATIONS WITH ONE PARTY TO BE AT THE EXPENSE OF ANOTHER," HE TOLD THE PAPER.

AL-MASRI SAID THE SAME JORDANIAN ATTITUDE APPLIED TO AMMAN'S RELATIONS WITH THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, WHOSE LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN AT LOGGERHEADS WITH THE DAMASCUS REGIME.

JORDAN AND THE PLO SIGNED AN AGREEMENT LAST FEBRUARY ON A JOINT APPROACH TO PEACE WITH ISRAEL.

AL-MASRI SAID THAT THE JORDAN-PLO ACCORD WAS "NOT DISCUSSED, OR BROACHED IN ANY WAY" DURING THE RECENT RECONCILIATION MEETING

WITH HIS SYRIAN COUNTERPART ABDEL-RAOUF AL-KASAM IN DAMASCUS.

IN HIS INTERVIEW WITH KOL AL-ARAB, KHAIRALLAH WARNED IRAN AGAINST VIOLATING A U.N.-BROKERED MORATORIUM ON ATTACKS ON CIVILIAN TARGETS. HE SAID THAT "A CATASTROPHE OF INCALCULABLE CONSEQUENCES WOULD BEFALL THE IRANIANS IF THEY ATTACKED CIVILIAN TARGETS IN IRAQ."

END

NN-AM

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SPORT - SYRIA-IRAQ, SOCCER

SYRIANS AND IRAQIS DRAW IN WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

DAMASCUS, SYRIA (AP) - SYRIA AND IRAQ, BITTER ENEMIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST'S VOLATILE POLITICAL ARENA, BATTLED TO A SCORELESS DRAW IN A LACKLUSTER WORLD CUP QUALIFYING GAME IN DAMASCUS FRIDAY.

THEY WILL MEET AGAIN IN TAIF, SAUDI ARABIA, NOV.29 TO DECIDE WHICH GOES THROUGH TO THE WORLD CUP TOURNAMENT IN MEXICO NEXT YEAR.

THE IRAQIS' LEFT WINGER HEADED THE BALL INTO THE SYRIAN NET IN THE 50TH MINUTE. BUT FRENCH REFEREE MICHEL VOTREAU DISALLOWED THE GOAL BECAUSE THE PLAYER BUMPED INTO THE GOALKEEPER.

MOST OF THE GAME WAS A SLUGGING MATCH IN MIDFIELD, WITH NEITHER SIDE ABLE TO BREAK OUT.

SYRIA AND IRAQ BOTH TOPPED THEIR GROUPS TO REACH THE THIRD QUALIFYING ROUND.

FRIDAY'S GAME MAY HAVE BEEN A TIE ON THE PITCH. BUT THE SELL-OUT CROWD IN THE 30,000-SEAT ABBASSIDES STADIUM WAS SYRIAN TO A MAN EXCEPT FOR A HANDFUL OF IRAQI TEAM OFFICIALS.

MORE (EB-LF-EB)

151527 NOV 85

SPORT - DAMASCUS - SYRIA-IRAQ SOCCER 2

IRAQI OFFICIALS CHARGED THAT THE SYRIANS REFUSED TO ALLOW HALF THE 70-STRONG IRAQI DELEGATION INTO DAMASCUS THURSDAY.

THE IRAQIS ALSO CLAIMED THE SYRIANS FORCED THOSE WHO WERE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE COUNTRY TO CHANGE FROM AN IRAQI TO A JORDANIAN AIRLINER IN AMMAN FIRST.

SYRIA AND IRAQ ARE GOVERNED BY RIVAL WINGS OF THE PAN-ARAB BATH PARTY AND DO NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THEIR LONG-SIMMERING FEUD HAS BEEN FUELED BY SYRIA'S SUPPORT FOR IRAN IN ITS GULF WAR AGAINST IRAQ.

THE 30 IRAQI PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS WHO WERE ALLOWED INTO SYRIA WERE HEAVILY GUARDED IN THEIR DOWNTOWN HOTEL BY A STRONG POLICE CORDON BEFORE THE GAME.

SADIQ FARAJ, THE LEADER OF THE IRAQI DELEGATION, TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE IN AMMAN THURSDAY NIGHT THAT SYRIA'S ACTIONS WERE "A KIND OF PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE...TO AFFECT THE MORALE OF THE TEAM."

THE GAME WENT AHEAD DESPITE THE POLITICAL SQUABBLING UNDER A BLAZING SUN. OFFICIAL COMMENTATORS HAILED "OUR IRAQI BROTHERS."

BUT AMBULANCES STOOD BY AT BOTH ENDS OF THE PITCH, JUST IN CASE THINGS GOT OUT OF HAND.

THE PARTISAN CROWD IN THE PACKED STADIUM WAS EXHORTED BY A SYRIAN COMMENTATOR "TO APPLAUD THE IRAQI TEAM MUCH MORE THAN YOU ENCOURAGE OUR SYRIAN PLAYERS. THAT IS THE DIRECTIVE OF OUR LEADER (PRESIDENT) HAFEZ ASSAD, WHO GIVES PRIORITY TO OUR ARAB BROTHERS."

MORE (EB-LF-FN)

SPORT - DAMASCUS - SYRIA-IRAQ SOCCER 3

BEFORE THE MATCH, THE IRAQI NATIONAL ANTHEM WAS PLAYED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN PUBLIC IN SYRIA SINCE 1980.

THE GAME WAS WATCHED BY SYRIAN DEFENSE MINISTER LT. GEN. MUSTAPHA TLASS AND INTERNATIONAL SOCCER FEDERATION PRESIDENT JOE HAVILLANGE.

ASSAD CLEARLY WANTED A SYRIAN VICTORY. HE HAD PROMISED ALL THE SYRIAN PLAYERS NEW HOUSES IF THEY WON THROUGH TO MEXICO. NOW HE'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE TAIF GAME.

THE LINEUPS:

SYRIA: RAGHED KHALIL; JIHAD ASHRAFI, MOHAMMED DAHMAN (CAPTAIN); ISSAM MAHROUSS, GEORGE KHOURY, RADWAN SHEIK HASSAN, ABDULKADER KURDAGHLY; MARWAN MIDARRATY, WALID ABUSILL, MALEK SHAKKOUHY. SUBS: ABDULNASSER ABBASSY, HAYSSAM SHAHEDEH, AHMAD DARNIBH, MOHAMMED JAKLAN, FOUAD GHOUREIR.

IRAQ: RAAD HAMMOUDY (CAPTAIN); KHALIL ALLAWI, ANAD ABD, NATEK SHAKER; BASSEL CORKIZ, HUSSEIN SAIID; AHMAD RADI, GHANEM OREIBI; ADNAN DEIR JAL, HARESS MOHAMMED, ALI HUSSEIN. SUBS: ABDULLATIF MASYAF, BACHIR SHAKER, JAMAL ALI, SHAKER MAHMOUD, NATEK SHAKER.

END (EB-FN-LF)

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Rice

01 888 LDS

SPORTS - SYRIA-IRAQ SQUABBLE

WITH SYRIA-IRAQ SOCCER

IRAQIS CLAIM SYRIANS BLOCKED HALF OF DELEGATION

BY JOHN RICE

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AMMAN, JORDAN (AP) - IRAQI SOCCER OFFICIALS CHARGED THURSDAY THAT SYRIA RENEGED ON AN AGREEMENT AND PREVENTED MORE THAN HALF THE 70-MAN IRAQI DELEGATION FROM TRAVELLING TO DAMASCUS FOR A WORLD CUP SOCCER QUALIFYING GAME.

SADIQ FARAJ, HEAD OF THE DELEGATION, SAID THAT ONLY 30 PLAYERS, COACHES AND AIDES WERE ALLOWED TO TRAVEL TO SYRIA FOR FRIDAY'S GAME -- FORCING THE IRAQIS TO LEAVE TWO PLAYERS, TWO COACHES AND OTHER DELEGATION MEMBERS IN AMMAN.

EVEN THE IRAQI JETLINER CARRYING THE TEAM WAS FORBIDDEN, HE SAID, AND THE TEAM WAS FORCED TO RENT A JORDANIAN PLANE FOR THE FLIGHT TO DAMASCUS.

FARAJ TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE AT AN AMMAN HOTEL THAT THE SYRIAN ACTIONS WERE A KIND OF "PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE ... TO AFFECT THE MORALE OF THE TEAM AND TO TRY TO AFFECT THE RESULTS" OF THE GAME.

HE APPEALED TO ALL ARAB SPORTS AND OLYMPIC ASSOCIATIONS TO PROTEST THE SYRIAN ACTION AND SAID IRAQ WOULD FILE A PROTEST WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL FEDERATION, OR FIFA.

IRAQ AND SYRIA, GOVERNED BY RIVAL WINGS OF THE ARAB SOCIALIST BATH PARTY, ARE BITTER RIVALS AND HAVE NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

SADIQ, WHOSE REMARKS IN ARABIC WERE TRANSLATED BY A DELEGATION MEMBER, SAID SYRIA HAD AGREED ON OCT. 2 IN ZURICH, AT A MEETING MEDIATED BY FIFA, TO PAY EXPENSES FOR 30 IRAQI DELEGATION MEMBERS AND TO ALLOW OTHER ARAB NATIONALS "IN BRACKETS, IRAQIS INCLUDED," TO COME AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE.

MORE

(JSR)

01 888 LBS

SPORTS - AMMAN - SYRIA-IRAQ SQUABBLE 2

HE SAID THE FIRST WORD THAT SYRIA MIGHT RENEGE ON THE AGREEMENT CAME ON WEDNESDAY AND THE TEAM DID NOT KNOW FOR SURE THAT THE DELEGATION WOULD BE LIMITED UNTIL THURSDAY.

'WHEN THE DELEGATION ARRIVED AT AMMAN'S AIRPORT, WE DISCOVERED THAT A TELEX HAD ARRIVED THAT THE SYRIAN SIDE WOULD NOT ALLOW AN IRAQI PLANE TO ENTER SYRIAN AIRSPACE,' HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT EVEN AFTER THE IRAQIS HAD AGREED TO THE LIMITS AND CHANGED TO A JORDANIAN PLANE, THE SYRIANS AT FIRST REFUSED TO LET THE PLANE LAND. IT HAD TURNED BACK TO AMMAN WHEN WORD CAME IT WOULD BE ALLOWED IN DAMASCUS AFTER ALL, HE SAID.

THE INTER-ARAB SQUABBLE COMES ONLY TWO DAYS AFTER SYRIA AND JORDAN -- A FIRM ARAB ALLY OF IRAQ -- SET ASIDE SIX YEARS OF HOSTILITY AND DECLARED THEY COULD MOVE TOWARD ECONOMIC UNITY IN A SAUDI ARABIAN-SPONSORED EFFORT TO HEAL ARAB RIFTS.

IRAQ HAD PROTESTED THE FIFA DECISION TO HOLD THE GAME IN SYRIA. THE HOME GAME PLANNED FOR BAGHDAD HAD BEEN MOVED TO SAUDI ARABIA BECAUSE OF FIFA RULES FORBIDDING GAMES IN A WAR ZONE.

END

(JSR)

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MSG# NC AND MIDEAST PTS

BBC B B15/1E SYRIA DENIES REPORTS OF RECONCILIATION WITH IRAQ
IN MESSAGE TO IRAN=:

THE SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAS SENT A MESSAGE TO HIS IRANIAN
COUNTERPART DISMISSING REPORTS THAT A RECONCILIATION BETWEEN SYRIA
AND IRAQ IS BEING PREPARED, AND DESCRIBING ANY SUCH RECONCILIATION
AS +IMPOSSIBLE+. TEHRAN RADIO QUOTES THE MESSAGE AS SAYING: +SYRIA
HAS INFORMED THE COMMITTEE FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF ARAB DIFFERENCES
THAT GROUNDS FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON RELATIONS BETWEEN SYRIA AND IRAQ
ARE TOTALLY NON-EXISTENT.+

THE RADIO SAYS THAT THE MESSAGE WAS HANDED TO IRANIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER ALI AKBAR VELAYATI YESTERDAY BY THE SYRIAN AMBASSADOR IN
TEHRAN. THE MESSAGE SAID THAT CERTAIN REPORTS WERE ATTEMPTING TO
GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT EFFORTS BEING MADE BY THE ARAB
RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE +WERE INDICATIVE OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
IRAN, LIBYA AND SYRIA+. +WE ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE
SOLIDARITY BETWEEN IRAN, SYRIA AND LIBYA.+ THE RADIO QUOTES THE
SYRIAN MINISTER AS SAYING IN HIS MESSAGE.

HE DESCRIBES CLAIMS MADE BY +REACTIONARY QUARTERS+ AND NEWS
AGENCIES THAT GROUNDS FOR A +SO-CALLED+ RECONCILIATION BETWEEN
SYRIA AND IRAQ HAVE BEEN PREPARED, AS +PART OF A PROPAGANDA ASSAULT,
PARTICULARLY SINCE THESE QUARTERS KNOW THAT ANY RECONCILIATION WITH
THAT REGIME IS IMPOSSIBLE.+

END BBC MON

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SYRIA-IRAQ

SYRIAN DAILY ACCUSES IRAQ OF GIVING A MIG-23 TO U.S.

DAMASCUS, SYRIA (AP)-THE DAMASCUS DAILY NEWSPAPER TISHRIN IMMEDIATELY ACCUSED IRAQ MONDAY OF PROVIDING THE UNITED STATES WITH THE SOVIET-MANUFACTURED MIG-23 JET FIGHTER IN WHICH GENERAL ROBERT M. BOND WAS KILLED DURING A TEST FLIGHT.

"THE ISSUE IS THIS: HOW THIS RUSSIAN JET GOT INTO AMERICAN HANDS? WE KNOW THE ANSWER. IT IS AN ARAB COUNTRY WHO ONCE WAS ADVOCATING THE STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAEL, BUT WHO LATER TURNED INTO AMERICAN HANDS AND WAGED A WAR IN THE (PERSIAN) GULF ON BEHALF OF THE U.S.," TISHRIN, WHICH SPEAKS FOR THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT, SAID.

SYRIA AND IRAQ ARE RULED BY RIVAL WINGS OF THE ARAB SOCIALIST BATH PARTY, BUT ARE POLITICALLY AT LOGGERHEADS. SYRIA HAS OPENLY SIDED WITH IRAN IN THE 44-MONTH-OLD WAR IN THE GULF.

GEN. BOND, DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND, WAS KILLED WHEN HIS TOP SECRET AIR CRAFT CRASHED IN NEVADA DURING A TEST FLIGHT ON APRIL 26. FIRST REPORTS SAID THE PLANE WAS THE RADAR-BOGGING STEALTH, BUT LATER REPORTS FROM THE PENTAGON SAID THE AIRCRAFT WAS AN ADVANCED SOVIET PLANE, PROBABLY A MIG-23.

THE MIG-23 IS THE MAINSTAY OF THE SYRIAN AIRFORCE. IRAQ ALSO HAS A NUMBER OF THE ADVANCED AIRCRAFT. (MORE) (LF/JP)

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DAMASCUS--SYRIA--IRAN 2

OBSERVERS HERE SAID THE SYRIAN ACCUSATION REFLECTED ITS WORRIES ABOUT THE REPORTS THAT GEN. BOND HAD DIED IN A MIG-23 CRASH.

THE PAPER SAID "THERE WERE PRECEDENTS. IN 1979 AND 1980," WHEN SYRIAN MILITARY SECRETS FALLING INTO U.S. HANDS WERE DELIVERED TO ISRAEL.

IT CHARGED THAT EGYPTIAN DEFENSE MINISTER ABDEL HALIM ABU GHAZALAN, WHO WAS MILITARY ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON AT THE TIME, ATTENDED "CONFERENCES" AT THE STAFF ACADEMY.

"WE ALL KNOW WHAT THESE CONFERENCES WERE ABOUT. WE HARVESTED THE RESULTS DURING THE ISRAELI INVASION OF LEBANON IN THE SUMMER OF 1982," THE PAPER SAID, WITHOUT ELABORATION.

SYRIA HAS OFTEN ACCUSED EGYPT OF HIDEAWAYING PARTS OF THE SAM-6 ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES TO THE U.S. AND THAT THESE SECRETS ENABLED THE ISRAELI AIRFORCE TO DESTROY SYRIAN SAM-6 BATTERIES IN LEBANON'S BEKAA VALLEY PRIOR TO THE 1982 INVASION.

(END) (L/4P)

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